

OUR RELIGIOUS COLUMN.

AUTHORITY AND INFLUENCE.

There is a natural tendency in the heart of man (and it operates abundantly even in real Christians) to bow to the influence of perverted and falsely assumed authority. The prophets prophesy falsely and the priests bear rule by their means, and my people love to have it so. That honored place of authority and influence once held by the fallen Church, while it yet stood as the pillar and ground of the truth, has been seldom claimed by any without the claim (however false and presumptuous) being willingly owned, and sometimes welcomed, even by many who are really Christ's. But all such authority, seeing that it is neither based on nor founded on truth, can only lead into the darkness to which itself belongs. What wonder therefore, that ignorance should settle in upon that soul that has made itself the slave of such authority; what wonder if unconsciously it should welcome falsehood and fight against truth, and congratulate itself most when farthest distant from the principles of Christ! Individuals too, as well as collective bodies, may claim an authority which God has never given; and not unfrequently fear, or affection, or self-interest, or a disposition to lean upon others, causes it to be gladly recognized. But such authority, seeing that it is not in the power of truth, that it directs not to the Scriptures alone, that it will not bear the test of the law and of the testimony, "can only, as in the former case, lead toward, if not into darkness. Nothing but close adherence to the Scripture can preserve us from such results in a day like the present. Is it that which we hear false or true? Is it or is it not the word of God? Such are the great questions we have to ask ourselves now. The faithful use of the Scriptures will no doubt expose many an error, detect many a sin of ignorance, and show us much that we have no sufficient grace to attain.—Christian Treasury.

SUMMARY OF CHURCH NEWS.

PRESBYTERIAN.

The Rev. Dr. T. D. Witherspoon has been obliged by ill health to resign the pastoral care of the Second Presbyterian church in Memphis, Tennessee. He took charge of it in 1865, since which time its members have increased from 180 to over 400. The edifice has been enlarged and thoroughly repaired, and the affairs of the congregation have been brought into a very prosperous condition. The congregation of Augusta Church, Virginia (Rev. Dr. Handy, pastor), is engaged in raising means for the thorough repair of their time-honored church edifice, a substantial structure of stone, built in 1747—seven years before Braddock's defeat. Their ancestors hauled the stone on sleds, and the class and nails from Williamsburg on back-horses. The Presbyterian churches of the city of New Orleans have undertaken, in connection with a system of parochial schools, the organization of a female seminary, intending that the same shall furnish superior advantages for mental and moral culture. Through a quarter of a million of strangers came to Texas last year to find a home, only a single Presbyterian minister came. It is said by reliable observers that there are fewer Presbyterian clergymen in Texas in 1870 than there were in 1860. Samuel Small, Esq., of York, Pa., has subscribed \$30,000 to the Memorial Fund. Rev. George F. Hays has accepted the Presidency of Washington and Jefferson College, Pa., to which he has just been elected. The American Presbyterian states that "the free press system is slowly making progress in the Presbyterian and other Churches, hitherto accustomed to non-reading, and adding to the movements in the direction of greater popularity, and a bending from the old, stiff prophecies of Presbyterianism, are full of interest, and bear directly upon the question of bringing the Gospel to the outside masses and negroes." The Rev. J. E. Presley, for the last forty-eight years pastor of the United Presbyterian Church and of Trinity in the United States, died on the 13th of Pittsburgh. He was in his sixty-seventh year. Rev. E. E. Hayles writes to the Presbyterian that, on the 14th of June last, with the assistance of Rev. Sheldon Jackson, he organized at Corinne the first Presbyterian Church in the Territory of Utah. On the 31st of July he organized the first Presbyterian Sunday-School in Mormondom. The Rev. John A. McAfee has accepted the Presidency of Highland, Kansas, and will take charge the first of September. Dr. Rowell D. Hitchcock, of Union Theological Seminary, New York, has just returned to this country, with improved health, after a prolonged absence in Europe. In St. Louis the colored people have been deeded to the United Presbyterian Church four lots, worth at present about thirty dollars a foot front, on the condition that it is occupied for church purposes. If not thus occupied, it reverts to the heirs. The Rev. Joseph McKelvey, returned from China, is ministering usefully to the colored congregation of Leavenworth, Kansas. The Pittsburgh Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church has unanimously endorsed the conduct of its delegates to the General Assembly, and the last synod voted for union with the United Presbyterian Church. All the ministers of the Western Presbytery have united in a call for a meeting to take action on the subject; and some of its members have voted almost unanimously for union irrespective of the action of the synod. CONGREGATIONAL. John Smith has made the noble offer of \$25,000 to Anderson Seminary for a Memorial Hall, and has pledged \$10,000 more, on condition that \$25,000 be subscribed by others, the building and land to cost not over \$30,000, and \$30,000 to be used to erect a library, reading-room, etc. This offer stands open for six months. The Lord's Supper, in the First Church, Oakland, California, on a late Sabbath, was an occasion of memorable interest. Nine persons were united to the church, but of these three were Chinese. The Rev. Merrill Richardson, of Worcester, Mass., has accepted the call from the New England Congregational Church of New York, and will be installed in October. The Rev. Jeremiah Porter, the Congregationalist veteran home missionary, is appointed post chaplain at Brownsville, Texas. The Advance says—"One of the railroad companies in Iowa has agreed to donate \$20,000 in lands towards the proposed German Theological Seminary. If it shall be located at Storm Lake, providing the churches will give \$30,000 towards erecting the necessary buildings." The Shepherd church has erected at Cambridge, Massachusetts, a granite monument in memory of its nine deceased pastors—a small number for two centuries and more since its organization. There are 60 Congregational churches in Kansas, with an aggregate membership of 2075, including 61,300,000. Twelve new meetings-houses were built last year. The total amount raised by the churches was \$35,348.41. A gentleman of Stockbridge, Mass., has presented to the church there a \$4200 parsonage, and another gentleman has given them the perpetual use, free of rent, of a large hall for conference meetings. It is reported that Rev. O. D. Dargatz, D. D., has resigned his professorship in Yale College, and that he has been requested to reconsider his action. The minutes of the General Conference of Ohio report an increase in the State over last

year of 11 churches, 16 ministers, 433 church members, and 1800 Sunday-school children.

METHODIST.

The Oberlin alumni have undertaken the endowment of two new chairs in that college. They will be called the Finney and Morgan professorships. The Methodists of Omaha, Nebraska, have arranged their church into a block of stores that will rent for \$10,000 a year. This income, it is proposed, will go to the Oberlin College in the State of Nebraska for ever, and is likely to secure the building of several churches in the rural districts every year. Dr. E. O. Haven, President of Northwestern University, Evanston, near Chicago, has been invited by the Regents of Wisconsin University to the Presidency, in place of Dr. Chadbourne, resigned. A new proposal for the location of the Syracuse (N. Y.) University (Methodist), has been made by John B. Burnett, who tenders the gift of fifty acres of land, valued at \$50,000, and the expense of the grading of the grounds. The land is situated on the Geddes Hills, west of the city. A Methodist missionary at Salt Lake City writes that "God's blessing abounds with the mission." Three preaching stations and three Sunday schools have been established, and congregations are encouraging at every point; that at Salt Lake City has grown from thirty persons to three hundred. To meet the cost of its new establishment in New York, \$900,000, the Book Concern issued coupon bonds, redeemable in fifteen years or sooner, and bearing interest. The bonds were issued at a premium, and the proceeds were for a time "flat." Lately, however, confidence has recovered itself, and the inquiry for these bonds has been renewed, and some have already advanced to the amount of \$400,000. This, it is stated, has been effected without a single paid-for advertisement, or any pushing whatever. In Ohio there are now four Methodist Episcopal Conferences, with four branches. The membership is 141,080, and is divided into 570 pastoral charges. The number of church edifices is 1809, and their value \$5,183,232. The number of parsonages is 383, and their value \$68,400. The average value of the church edifices is \$2875, and of the parsonages \$1800. The most costly church is St. Paul's, Cincinnati, \$160,000. There are 865 Sunday schools, 25,329 officers and teachers, and 149,755 scholars. The Methodist Episcopal Church has just lost two leading and liberal laymen, Mr. Truman R. Hawley, of Boston, who died suddenly at Plymouth, N. H., on the 8th instant; and the Hon. George T. Cobb, of Morristown, N. J., who was killed on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, near White Sulphur Springs, on the 9th, and had lately given \$100,000 to the Methodist Church at Morristown. Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, at Piqua, Ohio, valued at \$15,000, was destroyed July 25 by a tornado. The Rev. W. C. E. Cunningham, D. D., has been elected President of the Centenary College, Louisiana. The Wesleyan Methodists report a membership of 1,146,081, and a subscription of thank-offering during the centenary year of \$8,336,042. EPISCOPAL. St. James' Church, San Francisco, the nucleus of ritualism in California, has ceased to exist. The Rev. George Morgan Hills, of Syracuse, N. Y., has been unanimously called to the rectory of St. Mary's, Washington, N. J., the parish of which the late Bishop Doane was rector for many years. Bishop Kerfoot, of Pittsburg, Pa., strongly urges the wisdom of the free-seat system. Of 81,000 communicants in the Episcopal Church, in this diocese, but one-fourth rent their pews; in all the rest the seats are free. The Journal of the Convention of the Diocese of Ohio shows a list of 111 parishes, served by two bishops and ninety-four clergymen; communicants reported 9190. The total of contributions for all purposes, except salaries, in 97 parishes, \$185,384.40. In the new St. Thomas Church, Fifth avenue, New York, a musical conductor has been engaged, and the church is drawing great popularity, and a bending from the old, stiff prophecies of Presbyterianism, are full of interest, and bear directly upon the question of bringing the Gospel to the outside masses and negroes." The Rev. J. E. Presley, for the last forty-eight years pastor of the United Presbyterian Church and of Trinity in the United States, died on the 13th of Pittsburgh. He was in his sixty-seventh year. Rev. E. E. Hayles writes to the Presbyterian that, on the 14th of June last, with the assistance of Rev. Sheldon Jackson, he organized at Corinne the first Presbyterian Church in the Territory of Utah. On the 31st of July he organized the first Presbyterian Sunday-School in Mormondom. The Rev. John A. McAfee has accepted the Presidency of Highland, Kansas, and will take charge the first of September. Dr. Rowell D. 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of 7409 religious, or one in about 30. There were 7300 soldiers, and 330 in the prison; 4059 Jews, and 457 other non-Catholics. In the schools were over 3500 males going through the scientific and the theological courses, and 511 boys and 10,953 girls in the elementary schools; giving a total of 26,771 scholars, three-fourths of whom were receiving gratuitous education. It adds that of the 11,713 boys in Rome between the ages of 7 and 14 all but 800 were in these schools, and that the figures are still more favorable in the case of girls. They say that Holland is about to send 12,000 soldiers to maintain the temporal power of the Pope of Rome. Probably they will be transported in those ten frigates which they say England is preparing to send to his assistance. An incident almost matchless in its ironic horror is reported from Ammergau. The miracle play there acting, which was to have been repeated every Sunday in September, has been suspended, the representative of our Saviour having been ordered away to battle!

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REAL ESTATE AT AUCTION.

By virtue and in execution of the powers contained in a Mortgage executed by THE CENTRAL PASSENGER RAILWAY COMPANY of the city of Philadelphia, bearing date the eighteenth day of April, 1868, and recorded in the office for recording deeds and mortgages in the city and county of Philadelphia, in Mortgage Book A. C. H. No. 56, page 465, etc., the undersigned Trustees named in said mortgage

WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION, at the MERCHANTS' EXCHANGE, in the city of Philadelphia, by

MESSRS. THOMAS & SONS, Auctioneers, at 12 o'clock M., on TUESDAY, the eighteenth day of October, A. D. 1870, the property described in and conveyed by the said mortgage, to-wit:— No. 1. All those two contiguous lots or pieces of ground, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situated on the east-side of Broad street, in the city of Philadelphia, one of them beginning at the distance of nineteen feet seven inches and five-eighths of an inch from the southeast corner of the said Broad and Coates streets; thence extending eastward at right angles with said Broad street eighty-eight feet one inch and a half to ground now or late of Samuel Miller; thence southward along said ground, and at right angles with said Coates street, seventy-two feet to the northeast corner of an alley, two feet six inches in width, leading south from Penn street; thence westward crossing said alley and along the lot of ground hereinafter described, and at right angles with said Broad street, seventy-nine feet to the east side of the said Broad street; and thence northward along the east line of said Broad street seventy-two feet to the place of beginning. Subject to a Ground Rent of \$20, silver money.

No. 2. The other of them situated at the northeast corner of the said Broad street and Penn street, containing in front or breadth on the said Broad street eighteen feet, and in length or depth eastward along the north line of said Penn street seventy-two feet and two inches, and on the line of said lot parallel with said Penn street seventy-six feet five inches and three-fourths of an inch to said two feet six inches alley. Subject to ground rent of \$2, silver money.

No. 3. All that certain lot or piece of ground beginning at the S. E. corner of Coates street and Broad street, thence extending southward along the said Broad street nineteen feet seven inches and five-eighths of an inch; thence eastward eighty-eight feet one inch and one-half of an inch; thence northward, at right angles with said Coates street, nine feet to the south side of Coates street, and thence westward along the south side of said Coates street ninety feet to the place of beginning.

No. 4. Four Steam Dummy Cars, twenty feet long by nine feet two inches wide, with all the necessary steam machinery, seven-inch cylinder, with ten-inch stroke of piston, with heating pipes, &c. Each will seat thirty passengers, and has power sufficient to draw two extra cars. The cars are now in the custody of Messrs. Grace & Long, at Trenton, New Jersey, where they can be seen. The sale of them is made subject to a lien for rent, which on the first day of July, 1870, amounted to \$600.

No. 5. The whole road, plank road, and railway of the said The Central Passenger Railway Company of the city of Philadelphia, and all their land (not included in Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4) roadway, railway, rights of way, stations, toll houses, and other super-structures, depots, depot grounds and other real estate, buildings and improvements whatsoever, and all singular and the corporate